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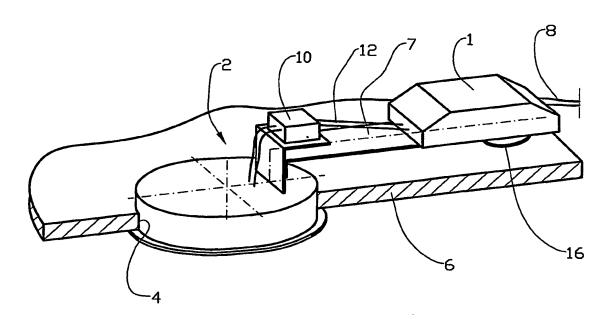
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(54) Title: A HOLDER DEVICE FOR A TRANSFORMER



(57) Abstract: A holder device for a safety transformer (1) for use in electrical installations of extra low voltage, in which the safety transformer (1) is placed in proximity of a consumer object (2), and in which the safety transformer (1) is connected to a piece of fittings (7).



A HOLDER DEVICE FOR A TRANSFORMER

This invention concerns a transformer holder. More particularly, it concerns a holder for a transformer of the type used for step-down transforming of an ordinary mains voltage, and being placed in proximity of a consumer object, the consumer object being, for example, a lighting fixture as is common in so-called installations of extra low voltage.

Transformers of the type discussed herein usually are electronically protected apparatuses, denoted in the field as "safety transformers", and being arranged for transforming electric voltage from an ordinary mains voltage, for example in the order of 220 to 240 Volts, and down to a lower user voltage, for example 12 Volts.

In the following, problems concerning the safety transformer are illustrated, referring to a flush-mounted, low-voltage lighting fixture, but the problems are equally relevant to other consumer objects wherein the voltage is stepped-down in proximity of the consumer object.

According to prior art, a flush-mounted, low-voltage lighting fixture may comprise a fastening device and a light bulb holder provided with a reflector. The light bulb holder may be fixedly or adjustably connected to the fastening device. During mounting, for example in a ceiling, a through-going opening is generally drilled in the ceiling panel, into which opening the fastening device fits in a complementary manner. Then the fastening device is connected to the ceiling panel by means of screws or some form of quick release coupling.

- The power supply wire leading to the flush-mounted lighting fixture may be buried in a manner per se on the upper side of the ceiling. According to prior art the power supply wire is connected to the primary circuit of a loose safety transformer, while the secondary circuit of the safety transformer is connected, via conductors, to the electric connection point of the lighting fixture. After connection, the safety transformer is pushed through the opening in the ceiling panel, after which the lighting fixture is pushed into the opening and is fixed to the ceiling panel.
- 20 According to prior art, the safety transformer thus is placed loosely on the upper side of the ceiling panel.

It is proven that devices of this type may represent a fire hazard. The reason may be that the safety transformer during operation may be resting too close to the lighting fixture and does not receive sufficient cooling. After some time, the safety transformer/lighting fixture assembly thus may become hot enough to cause ignition of flammable material nearby. Another reason may be that the connecting wires between the loose safety transformer and the lighting fixture is overloaded and is damaged during the assembly work, whereby

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flashovers may take place between the conductors.

These conditions have resulted in tightened authority demands concerning fixing of safety transformers. The authority demands stipulate that the safety transformer is to be fixedly secured and fixedly connected to the lighting fixture.

The object of the invention is to remedy the disadvantages of prior art and to disclose a device that satisfies the authority demands.

The object is achieved in accordance with the features of the invention disclosed in the specification below and in the subsequent claims.

By connecting the safety transformer to a mounting bracket, for example in the form of a piece of fittings, in which the piece of fittings also is connected to the ceiling or to the lighting fixture, the safety transformer may be placed at a safe distance from the lighting fixture and the ceiling panel, and simultaneously being fixedly mounted and being provided for a fixed electric connection to the lighting fixture.

The piece of fittings may have an L-form, in which one leg supports the safety transformer, while the other leg is connected to the ceiling or to the lighting fixture. Given this form, the safety transformer is located immediately above the ceiling panel, but at a suitable distance to the lighting fixture and the ceiling panel, and simultaneously the safety transformer may be removed in a relatively simple manner through the opening in the ceiling panel during

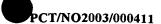
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replacement- and repair works.

In the following, a non-limiting example of a preferred embodiment is described and is illustrated on the appended drawings, in which:

- Fig. 1 shows a safety transformer being connected to a flush-mounted lighting fixture; and
 - Fig. 2 shows the safety transformer connected to the ceiling panel by means of a piece of fittings while installing the lighting fixture.
- On the drawings, reference numeral 1 denotes a safety transformer being connected to a flush-mounted lighting fixture 2, in which the lighting fixture 2 is placed within an opening 4 in a ceiling 6.
- A piece of fittings 7 is connected to the lighting fixture 2 and to the safety transformer 1. Electric current is supplied to the safety transformer 1 through a supply wire 8 and is electrically connected to a connection point 10 of the lighting fixture 2 by means of conductors 12.
- If desirable, the fittings 7 may be comprised of an associated portion protruding from the lighting fixture 2.

In an alternative embodiment, and by means of a screw 14, the piece of fittings 7 may be detachably connected to the anchoring object of the lighting fixture 2, such as the ceiling 6, cf. Fig. 2. Alternatively, the piece of fittings 7 may be connected to the ceiling 6 by means of a quick release



coupling that, if desirable, may fit complementary to the lighting fixture 2.

Advantageously, the piece of fittings 7 may be provided with a portion 16 protruding towards the ceiling panel 6, cf. Fig. 1, to prevent the safety transformer 1 from unintentionally getting too close to the ceiling panel 6.

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Claims

- 1. A holder device for a safety transformer (1) for use in electrical installations of extra low voltage, in which the safety transformer (1) is placed in proximity of a consumer object (2), characterized in that the safety transformer (1) is connected to a piece of fittings (7).
- 2. The device according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the piece of fittings (7) is connected to a consumer object (2).
- 3. The device according to claim 1,
 c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the piece of fittings (7) is connected to an anchoring object (6) of the consumer object (2).
- 15 4. The device according to claim 1, characterized in that the piece of fittings (7) is comprised of a portion protruding from the consumer object (2).
- 5. The device according to claim 1,

 characterized in that the piece of fittings (7) is provided with a portion (16) protruding towards the anchoring object (6).

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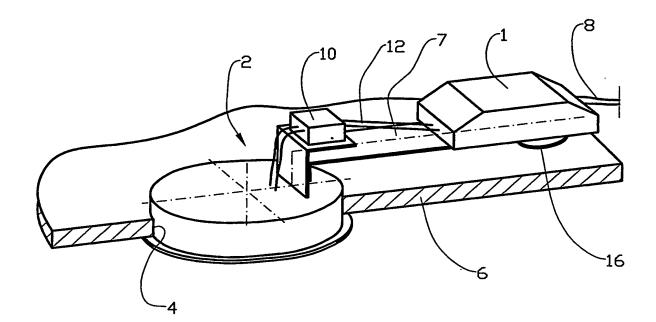


Fig. 1

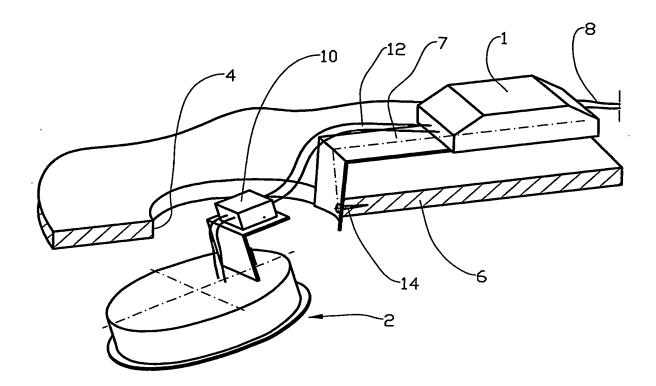


Fig. 2



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC7: F21V 23/02 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC7: F21S, F21V Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 2002131271 A1 (JOHN S. SCHUBERT ET AL), 1-5 19 Sept 2002 (19.09.2002), page 2, column 2, line 1 - line 37, figures 1.7 X DE 10018073 A1 (BRILONER LEUCHTEN GMBH), 1-5 4 October 2001 (04.10.2001), figure 1, abstract US 6402350 B1 (PATRICK H. WARD), 11 June 2002 1-5 (11.06.2002), figures 1A,1B, abstract Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. See patent family annex. Special categories of cited documents: later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance the principle or theory underlying the invention earlier application or patent but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive filing date document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination means document published prior to the international filing date but later than being obvious to a person skilled in the art the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 12 January 2004 05 -02- 2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Authorized officer Swedish Patent Office Box 5055, S-102 42 STOCKHOLM Bertil Nordenberg/MN Facsimile No. + 46 8 666 02 86 Telephone No. +46 8 782 25 00

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